



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY
2480 LLEWELLYN AVENUE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5800

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

5 December 2003

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 33

MEDICAL RECORD CODING AND COMPLIANCE TRAINING AND CODING STANDARDS

1. Reference memorandum, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, 20 Aug 03, subject: Improving Medical Record Coding at Military Treatment Facilities.
2. This policy applies to all health care providers and coders at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center and all outlying clinics.
3. Prompt and correct medical record documentation and coding is a principal determinant in quality health care. It is also integral to defining population health requirements, aligning resources with operations and demand management. Coding also impacts on a medical treatment facility's (MTF's) ability to process and obtain reimbursements. Moreover, coding and documentation that is timely, accurate and compliant with regulatory and industry standards minimizes our litigation liability. If we do not document and code properly, there is little evidence that quality work has been performed.
4. Ongoing coding and compliance training is mandatory for all health care providers upon arrival at the MTF and on an annual basis thereafter. Coding accuracy of health care providers and coders will be closely monitored. However, while the assessments resulting from such monitoring will *not* be incorporated into providers' annual performance reports, such assessments *will* be incorporated into the coders' annual performance reports because coding is the coder's primary function.
5. It is my goal to meet the following standards set by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs:
 - a. 100% of all outpatient encounters, other than ambulatory procedure visits, coded within three days of the encounter.
 - b. 100% of ambulatory procedure visits coded within 15 days of the encounter.
 - c. 100% medical record coding accuracy.

//Original signed by//
JOAN P. EITZEN
COL, AN
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
A